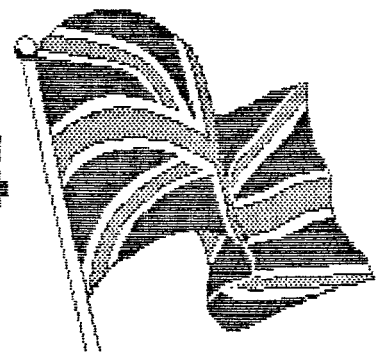


geoNEWS



JOURNAL OF geoCLUB

ISSUE 3

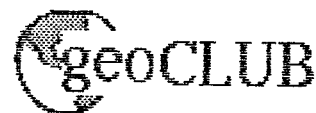
NOVEMBER 1991



EDITOR'S COMMENT

Well, we are into Issue 3 and going good. The membership is at 20 and we have yet to get some publicity, I intend to write to a couple of people to try and get a mention in the computer press. I would like to thank Brian Mills yet again for arranging the printing and distribution, Roy MacIntosh for help from the German group GUC which includes some free software that will be available soon and to those of you who wrote with your comments, criticisms and compliments. I also have pleasure in welcoming a member from Australia Peter Hunt, it's nice to know we have readers in the colonies. Peter has photocopied both issues of geoNEWS and passed them around

Oz, it will be interesting to see the outcome. There are two articles which you should read, one is subscriptions again which includes information about the free software and the other is about another British Geos User Group and how it could affect us. Again thanks for your support, especially those of you who sent stamps to cover postage for the next two issues. Those of you who didn't bother, I assume, you were either just too busy, skint, or your not bothered about it. If it's the first one, you are excused, believe me, I know what it's like. If it's the second excuse, have this one on me, you'r welcome. If it's the last one well so is this, it could have been a wonderful friendship. Happy GEOSing.... Frank



| INFO | |
|---|---------------|
| NAME | FRANK CASSIDY |
| STREET | |
| TOWN | |
| CITY | MANCHESTER |
| ZIP | |
| TEL | |
| PACKET | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WRITE PROTECT | |

Do you consider yourself an artist?. Would you like to win a prize? Well this could be for you. See page 9 for full details of the LOGO COMPETITION, you could almost win your subscription back. See Page 6 for a special Christmas offer you cannot refuse.

A New GEOS GROUP Is Found

We have recently received information of a GREAT new GEOS group that everyone should know about.

Apparently they have been operating for some time as their list of newsletters and software is quite large. They seem to have quite a bit to offer the GEOS user, such as an extensive library of software with programs listed that no GEOS user should be without. They also list all their available newsletters and what each one contains. Quite an impressive list, and even more interesting, the group and newsletter it turns out is none other than our very own geoMETRIX and the geoJOURNAL. These are being sold by a "Distributor" in the United Kingdom under the name "GEOUSER".

This distribution is being done without the knowledge and consent of geoMETRIX GEOS Users Group. The charges for the disks and "partial" newsletters are much higher through them and none of this money goes to the rightful copyright owners. Also, ordering these products through them, there are no Member or Subscriber benefits received.

If you know of this company and plan to order from them, or know someone ordering from them, please beware. The so-called distributors version of our geoJOURNAL has many pages left blank. The blank pages are those pages with our Portland, Oregon address and with our copyright notices. This plainly shows that they are thieves, selling our products for their own profit and greed. As I said above, they charge quite a bit more for much less.

With the Portland, Oregon geoMETRIX GEOS User Group you get a years subscription to the geoJOURNAL, many "members only" benefits, access to the geoMETRIX Software Library and the BBS.

The geoJOURNAL contains many articles for all GEOS users, from beginners to expert users. We have in depth reviews, columns for beginners and for font maniacs. We tell you whats new on Q-Link and tips for using GEOS throughout. We Are YOUR GEOS connection.

So you see, don't settle for an imitation. (And a partial one at that). Deal only with the true source. And that is.....

geoMETRIX GEOS Users Group

Oregon City, OREGON
97045

Well, what you have just read is a copy taken from geoJOURNAL the newsletter of geoMETRIX GEOS USER GROUP based in Oregon USA. As you can see they are not happy about the situation and that is very understandable, I do not think that I would be very happy if someone copied this newsletter and the software library and then sold them off as their own. Not only is it un-ethical, it is also illegal and anyone caught doing this risks a fine of £1,000 for each item of software, if as I suspect, they have a number of disks on offer then this fine could amount to a fair sized sum and quite a sizeable prison sentence. If any of you have bought any disks from this so called group, I say so called because they can hardly be described as a user group if they are selling pirated software, then I would appreciate it if you could give me full information about it. I would like to know, what you bought, how much you paid and what did it contain, also, did you consider it value for money?. If not, did you ask for your money back?, and what response did you get?. You could also tell me anything else you feel relevant as I will pass all this information on to geoMETRIX. The effect this will have on us is hard to tell at present. geoMETRIX have quite an extensive software library and I was hoping that I could arrange for them to let us put some of this software into our library, this is now of course in jeopardy, I do not think we could blame them if they are reluctant to let us distribute this even amongst our membership exclusivley. We have 2 single sided disk to be distributed free with the January issue, these have been donated by GUC of Germany for our exclusive use so when you get yours

continue Page 6

Drive Re-name.

By ERIC PICKUP

Now that you have two disk drives connected to your computer, it is time to rename the second drive as "Device 9". The following step by step instructions will enable you to quickly and easily get the system up and running. Firstly remove the four cross head screws from the under side of the 1541. Once removed turn the drive over and carefully remove the top cover. Look at the drawing of the drive locate the two circular jumper pads. Cutting jumper 1 will add 1 to the device number ie $8+1=9$. By cutting jumper 2 only you will add two to the device number ie $8+2=10$. For those who want to go a step further and add a third drive then you would need to cut both jumpers 1 and 2. Which will then give a device number of 11. ie $8+1+2=11$. It is also an easy addition to connect a small switch that can be

| LEFT | RIGHT | DEVICE # |
|------|-------|----------|
| UP | UP | 8 |
| DOWN | UP | 9 |
| UP | DOWN | 10 |
| DOWN | DOWN | 11 |

FIG 2

fitted in the rear panel of the drive this will allow you to change the drive device number from 8 to 9 at the flick of a switch. To connect a switch simply cut the appropriate jumper and with a fine tipped soldering iron connect two wires, one from each half of the jumper pad. These two wires are then connected to a single pole switch fitted in the back panel. Once completed replace the lid and refit the four screws.

Select the device number if you have fitted the switch and then away you go. Should your new drive be a 1570 then it's the same procedure as the 1541. If however you have the 1571 Double Sided disk drive or the 1581

3.5inch double sided drive then the task is much easier. On the back of both machines are 2 switches for the device number change. Fig 2 shows you which combination the switches need to be in to set to the various numbers. It is also possible to set the device number within software but as it is unlikely to be of much interest to the average GEOS user and so it has not been included in this short article.

INSIDE 1541 DISK DRIVE viewed from the top

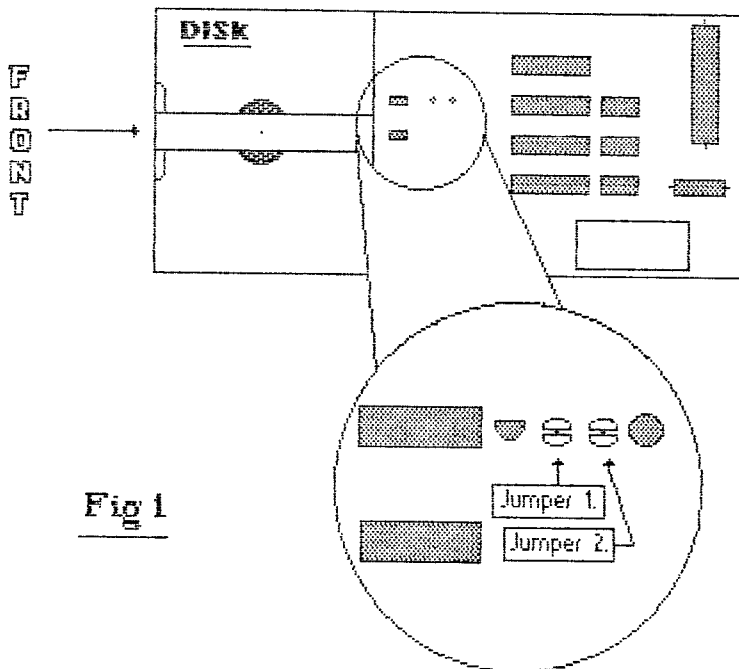


Fig 1

DIY RIBBON RE-INKING

If like me you go through printer ribbons quicker than you can eat your way through a packet of SHREADED WHEAT (remember no one can eat three in one sitting), then it will be one of the major items of your computer running costs. I use an LC10 and even when I can get them as cheap as £2.50 it's still expensive as they don't really last that long. There is a solution, re-ink your own ribbon cassettes. About 2 years ago I bought an aerosol can of "Ribbon Fresh" from a company called Caspell Computers at the time I think it cost me about £8.00 though now it's £12.95. It sounds expensive but when you think I have been using it for 2 years and it looks like I'll be using it for a further 2 years at the rate I'm going it's really quite cost effective as they say (or even cheap). As far as I am aware most ribbon cassettes will open quite easily but it does need to be done with great care, mainly because you are hoping to re use it. Have a careful look at the cassette itself and you'll probably see the joint line around the top. Take a slim knife or similar utensil and slide it into the joint, and prise it open slightly, do not try to open fully all at once as this will probably result in breaking off the lugs that hold it in place and you want to retain as many of these as you can, breaking the odd one is often unavoidable. Slowly edge around opening a little at a time and keeping it upright and flat, as the top finally comes off the last thing you want is the ribbon coming out all over the place, if it does, it's not the end of the exercise but it makes things very messy. Once you have the cassette in two

pieces the hard part is over. Put the open cassette on a large sheet of newspaper, that's so the excess spray of ink does not go somewhere it shouldn't, like the table cloth. Then gently spray the ribbon with ink. Try not to soak it too much but move it around doing your best to spread it over the whole ribbon. All that's left is to put the top back on and your in business. It may be a good idea to use the ribbon advance knob to wind the ribbon through to help the ink to get to all parts and to make sure that it is running OK, on very odd occasions they sometimes get a kink in them and then this will jam up the printer. I find it better to use about 5 ribbons in sequence so that it gives the maximum time for the ink to soak into the ribbon fully. For example as I use No.1 I just put that to one side and go onto No.2. When I have 3 used and No. 4 in use, I spray the 3 used ribbons and so by the time No.4 and No.5 ribbon have been used it's time to use No.1 again and I just repeat the sequence. The address to obtain this wonder product is... Caspell Computers FREEPOST Poole Dorset BH15 2BR. I know it sounds corny but if you do buy anything because of what you have read in these pages please tell them as it may do us a little good in the future.



MOVING

Please let us know your new address as soon as possible so we can keep your copy of the newsletter coming to you without delay. Send your new address to.....

geoCLUB

Manchester

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sorry to bring up the question of money but we need to get organized better from January 1992, so the subscription is set at £5 for adults and £3 for anyone under 16yrs or over 65yrs. Should there be anyone un-employed or finding things difficult in these "hard for some" times, please get in touch fees can be waived and this information will be kept in strict confidence. What will you get for your fiver?. Well there is I hope, 12 issues of this newsletter. Somewhere you can write to for help should you hit problems. If I cannot help then there is the rest of the members and I am in contact with quite a few Geos users in three countries, some of them authors of the programs you use. The knowledge that you were in at the start of the C64 revival . Probably the most important of all the software. 2 Disk are to be given free with the January issue and there will be much more to come, some free some at very reasonable prices, how's £1 a disk sound and as we grow there will be other benefits. I have some negotiations in the pipeline which will be of help to all of us. I also intend to do some reviews of new and old software with samples of the end product and we may even be able to have some up for grabs, it mostly depends on how many members we can get and KEEP. Don't forget, we are not in this to make a profit, at the moment we (I) are in the red , we are in this to help each other. So to help me to help you I would appreciate it if you would fill in the membership form and send me your money.

Go FASTER C64

Although GEOS can be used with a basic C64 and 1541 disk drive it is rather on the slow side due to the lack of memory and so the computer has to keep looking to the disk drive where all the data is stored. Most users next stage is the addition of another 1541 disk drive which does speed things up a little. Should it be possible to add a 1571 disk drive then this is better still, it does not operate any faster on a C64 than the 1541 but it has three times the amount of storage capacity. Going one stage further is the 1581, which is a 3.5 inch drive whose storage capacity is greatly increased. The 1541 has a storage capacity of 166 KiloBytes, the 1571 has 333 KiloBytes and the 1581 has 800 KiloBytes. The way to make the C64 and GEOS operate at much greater speed is to install a Ram Expansion Unit (REU). They do say that using an REU as against the basic C64 is like comparing walking to flying by jet, this may be a sight exaggeration but it does speed it up to unbelievable proportions and really does need to be seen to be believed. REU's come in three types, 1700 which has 128 K'Bytes and is for the C128. 1750 which boasts 512 K'Bytes and the 1764 which has 256 K'Bytes. Some software does not recognise this extra memory but GEOS does and it makes great use of it and really thats all we need. GEOS utilises it as a RAM DISK and so depending on which type of REU we have depends on which RAM disk it configures to. Although you may have been working with 64K for quite a while going, to 256K can

continued Page 6

seem to be memory to spare, but this is not the case, it's like everything else, the more you have the more you need, so, go for the biggest you can. A 1750 having 512K configures to a 1571 double sided RAM DISK which gives us 333K of storage. In the USA these are now being modified to 1 and 2 MegaByte which will then configure to a 1581 RamDisk with all the extra memory, it really is a worthwhile investment. But now back down to earth, anyone getting a new 1541 for Christmas you'll notice a difference with GEOS right away but, you must change the DEVICE NUMBER to Device 9 otherwise the computer will not know which disk drive it is talking to. It is quite a simple operation and to assist you Eric Pickup has sent us step by step instructions and a diagram so you cannot go wrong, See Page 3. Finally if it's an REU you want and you find it very difficult to obtain one, please drop me a line as I am looking into availability and price in the USA and Germany.



continue from page 2

please DO NOT SELL IT, anyone can have a copy as long as they are a member. GUC have been informed about this GUG (it looks like they have copied thier name) and the fact that we have no conection with them whatsoever. I have also written to geoMETRIX to explain the situation here in the UK regarding GEOS and the fact that we are not conected with GUG, so lets hope they accept this and if we help them maybe they'll help us.

geoCLUB Christmas Disk Offer



geoCLUB CHRISTMAS DISK

The disk contains the following.
2 Fonts, THAMES and CHRISTMAS, 3 geoPAINT files full of Christmas clips (one being the Santa you see here), and a couple of album with Christmas related clips in.

PRICE :- £1.80 which includes post and packing, if you like you can send 10 x 18p stamps (these are always useful and it will save me yet another trip to the post office). Overseas please send \$3 either US\$ or A\$. Proceeds go into geoCLUB funds.

The Geos User Club GbR.

The Geos User Club (Germany) is a registered club run on an entirely voluntary basis by a group of highly devoted and motivated Geos users. The club is run on a non-financial-gain basis, other than the day to day costs of equipment and the necessary publishing costs for the club magazine. The method used to raise the money is by means of an annual club membership fee of DM 36.- . Further costs of running and maintaining a club library of PD & shareware programmes, as well as software which has been programmed by programmers working either on their own merits, or in the name of the GUC, is levied through a modest charge made before delivery of the software. A nominal cost of DM 5.- for return-postage and where necessary packing costs are also to be paid when approaching a GUC active - member for help, in which a written reply is necessary. A further cost-related part of the GUC is its own computer mailbox-programme. This is basically a computer linkup and mailbox, which is made possible via the telephone lines. The mailbox is a fairly new addition to the GUC, and is fast becoming a hot favourite amongst the lucky people, who have the necessary hardware to log in to it.

The GUC's membership at present stands at about 1679 registered members, male & female. The club can boast a number of very talented programmers who are at present

extending the range of Geos related software, which in turn will make the Geos software packet, marketed by the company "Berkley Softworks" of USA, into one of the best programme packets for the C64 & C128 computers from Commodore Computers Inc. Other active members, of which there are many, carry out other jobs on a purely voluntary basis, such as translating the many American programme instructions into German that accompany the Geos programmes, utilities, and applications.

The GUP (Geos User Post)

The Geos User Post (from here on called GUP) is the club magazine, which is produced by the GUC using GeoPublish and printed by a company, Laser Service, in Switzerland using GeoPubLaser. It is produced once every two months, and contains reports, in the German language, tips & tricks and courses on the use of Geos software and the related Commodore hardware. The GUP consists of at least 16 pages and relates to a large readership of German, Dutch, Austrian and Swiss members. The mainstay of the readership is presently in Germany. The GUP is a very important and informative part of the Geos User Club helping old and new members alike with the day to day problems and questions, which confront the Geos user. Bundles of the printed magazines are sent out to a number of active members, who live in various parts of the country, these members take over the dispatch to the other remaining members in their own

areas.

The Geos Specialists

There are a number of members who are very active in the day to day running of the club. At the top of the list comes our club chairman and the producer of our GUP (club magazine). These two people are the founder members of the Geos User Club and have watched the club grow during the past three years from a club with a small membership into what it is today. Next along the line comes the person who runs our Disk Library. There are also a number of people who make other important contributions in many other ways.

We have a number of people who have specialised in certain pieces of hardware or various programmes. These people are the sources of information and help for anyone who has a related problem with, for example, the printer LC 10 or GeoPublish, GeoCalc and various other programmes. These people have given permission for their names and telephone numbers as well as addresses to be published in the GUP. Due to an ever increasing number of enquiries and calls for help, a small charge has now been introduced as recompence for the valuable assistance given. Is the price of DM5.- (about two pounds) too much to ask to solve that printer problem?, after all, the time it takes to solve a problem can be quite long! With the present number

of members at 1670, if only 5 people a night phone with a problem (sometimes its more) and each problem takes about 30 minutes to solve..... well think of the time and energy that is required!

As well as the people already mentioned there are the unsung heros who often work in the background and seldom get a mention. These people translate the many American programme descriptions and instructions. We also have members who assist with the delivery of the GUP every two months. In fact although every thing is done on a purely fun-basis, the ammount of work now involved is definately on a par with a full time job!

There is a Dutch representative who can be contacted by anyone wishing to expand his Geos contacts to Holland. We have a specialist who is conversant with GeoProgrammer and MegaAss. Anyone wishing to inform himself of the addresses of other members with a similar hard - or software setup can receive a copy of the members list for his area . This includes an ever increasing list of club members, their telephone numbers , addresses and software and hardware setups. Naturally the addresses and telephone numbers are only submitted with agreement of the person concerned.

On filling out the membership application form, a would be future member, is asked to quote his hardware and software setup. Another question he is asked to answer is whether he would like to be an active or a passive

member, and if he wished his address to be passed on to a third party, or included in the area-list of GUC members. If he does not wish for his address to be made public, then it is not! On submitting the membership fee a new member receives a free sample of a previous copy of the club magazine, as well as a copy of the club regulations covering copyright laws, use and abuse of other club members as well as the general ideas and aims of the Geos User Club.

All members have access to the GUC, it's Disk Library and all can make use of the GUP to submit reports, letters and adverts. Non-members, are also given help providing that they include the DM5.- for the postage, packing and the time taken in answering the letter. Non-members do not receive a copy of the club magazine or have access to the club GeoThek (Disk Library).

This report was written by Roy McIntosh, of the Geos User Club in Germany. It's inclusion in the geoClub's magazine and the aim of the report is to give all members of the geoClub UK an idea as to how our club is run. Over the next few months between working, family, translating, for the GUC and living! (if I get time), I also hope to be able to submit the occasional report on the developments in the German Geos World. Further to these activities, I am also working on an English Geos magazine called; "Geos In Germany", or in short (GIG). The main aim of this magazine is to inform all

non-German-speaking Geos Users in all English speaking countries, of the many developments here of the latest Geos software and hardware related hits that have been programmed or developed here in Germany. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of this magazine, please inform Frank Cassidy, or write to the address at the end of this report. The magazine is at present still being written, and shall be a printed paper of between 8 & 16 pages. The reports will be translated reports of German programmes and hardware that have appeared in our own club magazine. The GIG will also be sent to the GUC for appraisal before being posted off to England, USA and many other countries where Geos is in use.

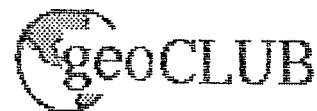
Bye for now.

Roy McIntosh.

My home address for those who wish to order their copy of the magazine in advance:

Roy McIntosh

Paderborn
Germany



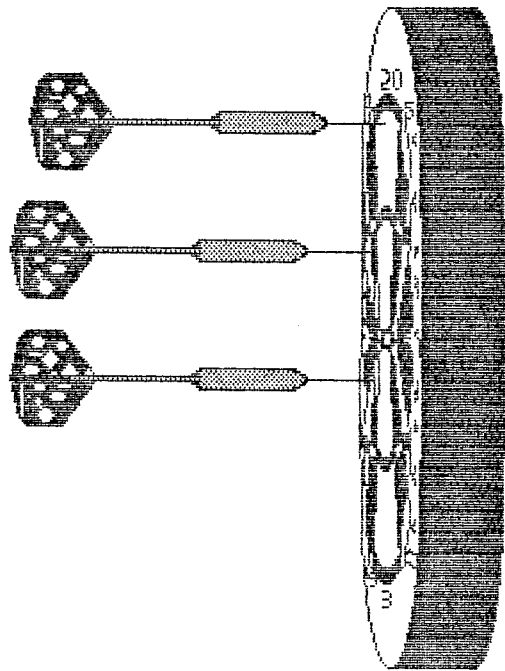
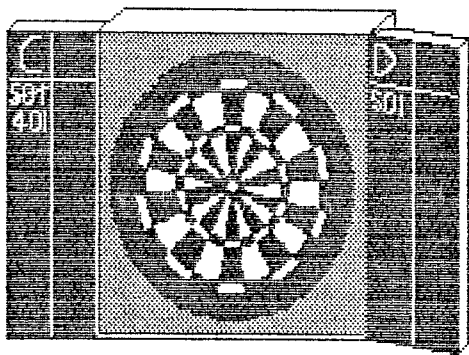
Do you like the geoCLUB Logo ?. Could you do better ?. If so send your artwork on a disk, if that isn't possible send it drawn BLACK on WHITE and I'll scan it in. All the submissions will be printed out in a future geoNEWS and we will hold a ballot for the best, there may even be a prize . 0000000h

WARNING:-

DARTS

IN PROGRESS!

ENTER
AT
OWN
RISK.



KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING

Duncan Pearson (C) 1991